

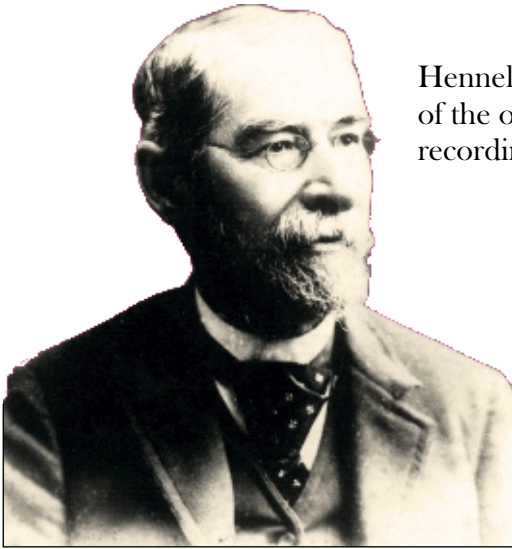


## Brazoria County Historical Museum

100 E. Cedar, Angleton TX 77515  
bchm.org 979-864-1208 ©7/15/2020

# Brazoria County Abstract Company

The Brazoria County Abstract Company was one of the oldest businesses in Brazoria County. It was started by Hennell Stevens and J.H. Shapard in 1890, and passed through five generations of the Stevens Family before its acquisition by Stewart Title in 1997.



Hennell Stevens served as County Surveyor for Brazoria County and located many of the original state grants in Brazoria County. His firm was instrumental in recording the history of land throughout the county.



Hennell's son Frank W. Stevens opened a branch of the company in Velasco in 1891, and operated there during the "boom" years between 1891-1896. When the county seat was moved from Brazoria to Angleton in 1896, the company followed suit, closing the Velasco branch and moving to Angleton. At that time Hennell's son took over management of Brazoria County Abstract Company. Hennell Stevens died in 1897.





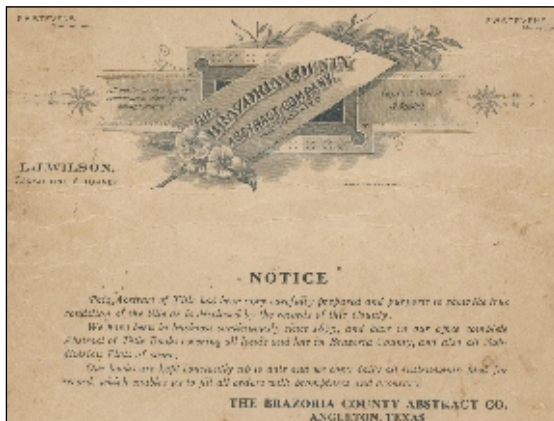


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# Brazoria County Abstract Company



Frank W. Stevens also served as County Surveyor, as well as managed the company until his death in 1928. The company then passed to his son Frank. The company became an agent for Stewart Title Guaranty Company in 1946, and then was sold to Stewart Title in 1997.



Velasco Tex May 27<sup>th</sup> 1892  
Messrs Shapard & Stevens  
Velasco Tex

Gentlemen

Finding that little or nothing  
has been done toward the getting up the  
right of way and subsidies for the  
Velasco & Northern Rail Road. And  
believing that more would be accomplished  
by some one more interested with this  
whole business than by several committees  
composed each of several persons.  
We therefore authorize you to proceed at  
once to get up the right of way along the  
line of said road through Brazoria County  
Also to secure donations of Land and  
Money in aid of said Enterprise.

It is important that this should be done  
at once as Ft Bent Co has contributed  
about \$35,000 in Lands and Money \$2500.00  
of it being in cash. And right of way  
through the County. And it only now rests  
with you to get subscribed about 9,000  
Acres Land and <sup>right of way</sup> secure the road. It is  
strictly necessary that this be done at once  
as we desire to prepare for construction as  
soon as possible before the hot season sets  
in. We mean business and if the people will  
treat us right they will have a first class road  
running through their County in less than  
one year.

Yours &c  
T J Allen Pres  
Velasco & Northern RR